(c) whether producers of vanaspati in small sector are exempted from price control and Inter-State Trade; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Sir, as per new Industrial Licensing Policy, vanaspati industry has been delicensed with effect from 25.7.1991. Every entrepreneur has to file a Memoranda in the prescribed form to the Secretariat for Industrial Approvals (SIA) in the Ministry of Industry for setting up of a vanaspati unit.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) There is no price control nor any restriction on Inter-State movement of vanaspati.

Import of palm Oil from Malaysia

3624. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India have signed an agreement with Malaysia to buy three lakh tonnes of palm oil annually for two years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this agreement has been concluded despite an encouraging domestic oilseed proudction prospect; and

(c) if so, what are the compulsions of importing palm oil?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The agreement was concluded in August, 1992 considering various factors including the possible gap between demand and supply, the need for maintaining adequate buffer stock for various contingencies, our desire to foster a close relationship, particularly in trade, with Malaysia and to reactivate the Evidence Account for award of projects to Indian parties in Malaysia.

Performance of STC

3625. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present network of State Trading Corporation all over the country for carrying out its operations efficiently;

(b) what has been the operational and financial performance of STC during past three years, year-wise;

(c) what is the role of STC in the light of liberalisation of economic policies during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the details regarding expansion of its network in Maharashtra during the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Besides, the Corporate Office of STC located at New Delhi, it has 11 Branch Offices, 5 Sub-Branch Offices and 6 Field Units situated in different parts of the country to carry out its operations.

(b) The trading and financial performance of STC during the last three years is given below:—

(Rs. Crores)

	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92
A. TRADING PERFORMANCE			
Exports	752	369	625
Imports	1070	1332	610
Domestic	33	55	80
Grand Total:	**1855**	**1756**	**1315**
B. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE			
Profit before Tax	37	35	36
Profit after Tax	32	23	25
Net Worth	312	329	360

(c) and (d) Arising from the liberalised trade policy measures effected by the Government, the Corporation has reformulated its Corporate Objectives as under:—

— To emerge as a leading international Trading House